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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

July Livestock Slaughter
Average Prices Received by Farmers
U.S. & Delta States Farm Labor & Wage Rates
U.S. Rice Stocks

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during July totaled 500,000 pounds, unchanged from June and the same as the previous year.

There were 600 head of **cattle** slaughtered during July, unchanged from June but down 100 head from the previous year. Average live weight was 712 pounds, down 20 pounds from the previous month and 57 pounds below July 2008. Total live weight, at 456,000 pounds, was up seven percent from the previous month and nine percent above the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during July totaled 400 head, unchanged from June and the same as the previous year. Live weight averaged 507 pounds, up one pound from June but 17 pounds below July 2008. Total live weight, at 183,000 pounds, was up two percent from June but 20 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during July totaled 800 head, down 100 head from the previous month and 200 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 200 pounds, up nine pounds from June and 27 pounds above the previous year. Total live weight was 162,000 pounds, down nine percent from June and four percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during July was 300 head, down 200 head from June and 100 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 56 pounds, down six pounds from the previous month and nine pounds below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.1 billion pounds in July, down three percent from the 4.3 billion pounds produced in July 2008.

July 2009 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. **July 2008** contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.3 billion pounds, was four percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.9 million head, down five percent from July 2008. The average live weight was up nine pounds from the previous year, at 1,282 pounds.

Veal production totaled 10.8 million pounds, 12 percent below July a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 79,900 head, down nine percent from July 2008. The average live weight was down 13 pounds from last year, at 230 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.8 billion pounds, down one percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.2 million head, down three percent from July 2008. The average live weight was up five pounds from the previous year, at 267 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.9 million pounds, was up two percent from July 2008. Sheep slaughter totaled 207,400 head, slightly above last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, up three pounds from July a year ago.

January to July 2009 commercial red meat production was 28.4 billion pounds, down three percent from 2008. Accumulated beef production was down three percent from last year, veal was down three percent, pork was down three percent from last year and lamb and mutton production was down four percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	June	July		January - July		July		January - July	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
----- Number, thousand head -----									
Cattle	0.6	0.5	0.6	4.0	4.3	3062.5	2,920.6	20,390.2	19,499.2
Calves	0.4	0.4	0.4	2.3	2.3	87.9	79.9	519.2	528.9
Hogs	0.9	1.0	0.8	9.1	7.3	9,462.8	9,146.7	67,004.7	64,698.0
Sheep & Lambs	0.5	0.4	0.3	2.1	2.5	207.1	207.4	1,482.9	1,415.7
----- Total live weight, thousand pounds -----									
Cattle	427	420	456	3,260	3,220	3,886,174	3,731,439	25,817,454	25,005,792
Calves	180	228	183	1,142	1,173	21,032	18,216	137,131	133,614
Hogs	177	168	162	1,923	1,481	2,479,550	2,444,531	17,980,476	17,509,852
Sheep & Lambs	29	23	18	158	161	27,305	27,937	205,902	196,386
----- Average live weight, pounds -----									
Cattle	732	769	712	815	749	1,273	1,282	1,270	1,287
Calves	506	524	507	497	510	243	230	268	256
Hogs	191	173	200	211	203	262	267	269	271
Sheep & Lambs	62	65	56	75	64	132	135	139	139
----- Million pounds -----									
Red Meat	0.5	0.5	0.5	4.1	3.8	4,250.1	4,123.6	29,293.4	28,424.9

August Farm Prices Received Index Down 5 Points

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August, at 127 percent, based on 1990-92=100, decreased five points from July. The Crop Index was down six points and the Livestock Index decreased three points. Producers received lower prices for broilers, wheat, corn, and grapes and higher prices for milk, eggs, apples and lemons. In addition to prices, the overall index was also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of cattle, grapes, sweet corn and calves offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, broilers and strawberries.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index was down 29 points from August 2008. The Food Commodities Index, at 125, decreased 5 points from last month and decreased 28 points from August 2008.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The August Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates was 177 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was unchanged from July but 14 points below August 2008. Lower prices in August for concentrates, mixed fertilizer, feed grains, and hay & forages offset higher prices for other machinery, diesel fuel, herbicides and LP gas.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: Louisiana and United States

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	August 2008	July 2009	August 2009 ¹	August 2008	July 2009	August 2009 ¹
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	9.85	2/	10.00	12.80	10.80	10.70
Rice, per cwt	16.70	12.00	12.30	18.10	14.30	13.60
Upland cotton, per pound	.580	.467	2/	.585	.472	.484 ³
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	163.00	116.00	109.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt ⁴	68.80	57.00	57.90	95.80	81.10	80.30
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	93.10	84.50	85.00	100.00	85.30	84.60
Cows, per cwt ⁵	54.50	42.90	42.00	57.60	47.40	46.70
Calves, per cwt	102.00	92.50	96.00	117.00	110.00	110.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.470	.490	.430
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.963	.709	.759
Milk, all, per cwt ⁶	n/a	n/a	n/a	18.40	11.30	11.80

¹ Mid-month.

² Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

³ Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

⁴ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

⁵ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

⁶ Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = not available

Delta States Farm Labor

Farm labor estimates are made for the combined Delta states: Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. The Delta states had 34,000 hired workers on farms and ranches during the week of July 12-18, 2009, down 13 percent from July 6-12, 2008. Of the 34,000 hired workers, workers who work 150 days or more a year accounted for 82 percent of the total, and workers who work 149 days or fewer accounted for the remaining 18 percent.

The average wage rate in the Delta states for all hired farm workers was \$9.42 per hour compared to \$9.88 per hour in July 2008. Delta states hired farm workers averaged \$1.22 per hour less than the average U. S. hired farm worker. Livestock workers earned \$9.15 per hour compared to \$9.74 per hour a year earlier. Field workers were earning \$8.69, or \$.49 cents less per hour this July than last July.

The average numbers of hours worked, at 38.5 hours per week, was 1.3 hours less per week than the current U.S. average of 39.8 hours per week.

United States Farm Labor

There were 1,238,000 hired workers on the nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 12-18, 2009, up six percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 875,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 363,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.64 per hour during the July 2009 reference week, up 30 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.04 per hour, up 38 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$10.03 per hour compared with \$9.98 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.04 per hour, was up 30 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 39.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 2 percent from a year ago.

Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Delta and United States

Item	Delta ¹			United States		
	July 2008	April 2009	July 2009	July 2008	April ² 2009	July 2009
Hired Workers (All)	39	33	34	828	680	875
Ag Service Workers	---	---	---	345	223	363
Hired Farm Workers	39	33	34	1,173	903	1,238
150 Days or More	31	25	28	585	554	611
149 Days or Less	8	8	6	243	126	264
Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers)	39.4	36.3	38.5	40.5	40.1	39.8
Average Wage Rate (Hired Farm Workers)	\$9.88	\$9.60	\$9.42	\$10.34	\$10.84	\$10.64
By Type of Worker						
Field	\$9.18	\$9.30	\$8.69	\$9.66	\$9.99	\$10.04
Livestock	\$9.74	\$8.84	\$9.15	\$9.98	\$10.25	\$10.03

¹ Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

--- Data not published.

United States Rice Stocks Up

Rough rice stocks in all positions on August 1, 2009, totaled 24.7 million hundredweight (cwt), up one percent from the total on August 1, 2008. Stocks held on farms totaled 876,000 cwt and off-farm stocks totaled 23.8 million cwt. Long grain varieties accounted for 72 percent of the total rough rice, medium grain accounted for 25 percent and short grain varieties accounted for three percent.

Milled rice stocks in all positions totaled 4.1 million cwt, up 14 percent from a year ago. Milled rice stocks were comprised of 2.4 million cwt of whole kernel rice and 1.7 million cwt of second heads, screenings and brewers rice.

United States Rice Stocks

Date	On Farm	Off Farm ¹ Farm	Total All Positions
	(Domestic Units – 1,000 Cwt)		
	-----Rough Rice-----		
August 1, 2008	395	23,981	24,376
June 1, 2009	6,920	41,446	48,366
August 1, 2009	876	23,787	24,663
Date	-----Milled Rice-----		
	---	3,575	3,575
	---	5,724	5,724
August 1, 2008	---	4,077	4,077
June 1, 2009	---		
August 1, 2009	---		

¹ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, ports and in transit.

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